

## **YEAR 9 HOME LEARNING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEEK BEGINNING 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY AND 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

### **What is the learning objective for this fortnight?**

**Lesson 1:** To recap key points in the euthanasia debate. To investigate different religious teachings on Euthanasia. To be able to identify, explain and analyse the different Christian teachings on euthanasia.

**Lesson 2:** To gain knowledge of the key terms associated with the ethical issue of abortion. To begin to consider pro-life versus pro-choice arguments.

### **How long should I spend on work in RE this fortnight?**

Aim to spend 1 hour 20 minutes on Religious Education this fortnight – you can split this up into four 20 minute sessions.

### **What should I do if I complete the work early?**

There are some EXTENSION activities at the end of this document which you could complete once you've finished all of the work.

### **Where can I find the resources for this fortnight?**

Brine Leas Website; Portal; Click on either the Microsoft Logo or the Apple Mac one; Type in Username and Password; Click on remote desktop; Click on This PC Go to (x) students; **Read only** folder; **Home Learning** folder; **Year 9** folder; **Religious Education** folder; **wkbeg4<sup>th</sup> May** folder and **wkbeg11<sup>th</sup> May** folder

**Lesson 1: Title: Religious views on Euthanasia – this lesson should take 1 hour, so lesson 2 will only take 20 minutes – use the activity time guide to split your time over the fortnight.**

On lined paper, in your exercise book, or in a Word document, put the title and date.

### **Activity 1: Recap Application Activity (20 minutes)**

**USING YOUR KNOWLEDGE LEARNT OVER THE PAST TWO LESSONS AIM TO ANSWER THE QUESTION BELOW – USE THE HELP BOX IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING**

*“The law on assisted dying in the UK should be changed”*

- 1) Do you agree with this statement? Give three reasons for your opinion. (3)**
- 2) Give three reasons why someone may disagree with your opinion on the statement. (3)**

**HELP BOX;** remember the current law on assisted dying in the UK is that it is illegal to aid or assist anyone in their suicide, and the maximum penalty is a 14 year prison sentence for doing so.

- Some people want this law relaxed so that people who are terminally ill and suffering and who ask for assisted dying should be able to have it – you need to think about the benefits of this or the negatives.
- Remember we have looked at Case Studies of people who want the law changed/we've also looked at Belgium where they have very relaxed laws on assisted suicide, we have also considered issues such as the sanctity of life/quality of life and slippery slope.

**Once you have completed your answer – use the model answer on the feedback sheet to mark and adjust your response.**

**Activity 2: Starter tasks – Recap. Link the key word to the correct meaning (5 minutes)**  
**Euthanasia means: (circle the correct answer)**

Easy fall                      easy tragedy                      easy death                      easy times

Tick the true or false box for each statement below.	True	False
1. Euthanasia is allowed in the UK in extreme cases only		
2. Euthanasia is allowed in Switzerland		
3. In the Greek language, the word thanatos means gentle/easy		
4. Euthanasia comes from Latin words of 'eu' and 'thanatos'		
5. Euthanasia is a controversial issue		
6. Euthanasia is the same as murder in most countries		
7. All Christians believe that euthanasia is murder		
8. Some Christians believe that euthanasia is allowed but only on old people.		

Link the key terms to the correct meanings by drawing a line from the key word to the meaning.  
 Or write out the correct definition, next to the correct term.

**Complete to the best of your ability on your own!!**

- Voluntary Euthanasia                      Euthanasia is performed without the dying person being told. e.g. a coma patient.
- Involuntary Euthanasia                      Doctors give the patient pain killing drugs knowing that the drug will also kill the patient.
- Active Euthanasia                      Doctors give a painkilling drug but do nothing to save the patient.
- Passive euthanasia                      Patient has asked for it. E.g. a cancer patient who asks for a drug to quicken their death

**Once you have completed your answer – use the feedback sheet to mark and adjust your response.**

**Activity 3: New Learning: (10 minutes)**

Watch the video clip (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zf4tfg8>)

Copy the headings below and use the video clip to add arguments underneath each heading.

- 1) Christian Arguments AGAINST Euthanasia      2) Christian Arguments to SUPPORT Euthanasia

Activity 4: (10 minutes)

Copy out the religious quotes below – leaving a line in between each quote. Then use the explanation box to annotate the quote and interpret what it is suggesting about religious views on euthanasia

*“Thou shall not commit murder” (Exodus 20:13)*

Dalai Lama said Buddhists believed every life was precious and none more so than human life adding *“I think it is better to avoid it”* (Dalai Lama in 1993)

*“The days given to me had been planned before they ever began”* (Psalms 139)

*“In some exceptional circumstances it might be acceptable. Everything should be judged case by case”* (Dalai Lama 1993)

*“We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.”* (Acts 14:22)

Explanation Box:

Suffering may have value, for example Jesus' suffering was for the atonement of sin. So removing suffering may be against God's will.

Life is sacred and so taking away a life should be avoided at all costs.

In some cases euthanasia maybe acceptable, each case needs to be looked at individually

Life is ended by humans and not God, so is murder and a sin.

God has predetermined when we die, ending life prematurely through euthanasia is going against God's plan.

Activity 5: Read the information below on the different religious views towards euthanasia.

**Roman Catholic**

**I am opposed to euthanasia as I believe that anything that deliberately brings about death is murder (active euthanasia), even turning off a life support machine. I believe in the sanctity of life and that life is a gift from God and only he can take it away. Otherwise I am interfering with God's plan. I'm worried that if we allowed euthanasia it could lead to people feeling pressured to ask for euthanasia so that they are not a burden on their family. Although suffering is not a nice thing, it can bring people closer to God and help them to understand the suffering of Jesus.**

### **Church of England**

**We agree with Roman Catholics, that God should chose when life is taken away and that legalising euthanasia could put vulnerable people at risk. However, in some extreme cases we do accept that doctors do not have to do everything possible to keep people alive. In some instances, passive euthanasia might be the most loving choice.**

**Following Jesus' example of care and compassion I think palliative care (keeping severe pain under control) provides a good alternative to euthanasia. Hospices can help give patients a peaceful and happy end to life, a 'good death' can be achieved without killing if the patient is surrounded by care, love and support.**

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### **The Modern Church people's Union**

**Unlike other Christian denominations, I believe that assisted dying should be legalised for terminal patients. People say that God should chose when we die however I believe that the drugs that are used to end a suffering person's life are God-given, and should be used if it is the most loving thing to do.**

**Jesus' golden rule was "always treat others as you wish to be treated". 80% of people say they would like to have assisted suicide available to them therefore euthanasia would fulfil Jesus's teaching.**

**God has given people free will and so we should be allowed to choose when to end our lives otherwise he wouldn't have given us free will.**

## **Buddhist view 1**

**I have a very similar view to most Christians and believe that euthanasia is wrong because:**

- **The first moral precept states that we should not harm or kill any living being.**
- **I believe in karma and therefore when my consciousness passes into a new life, I will have to face the consequences of my decisions from my past life. I.e. this could mean paying for the actions of the forced ending of my previous life.**
- **It is important to have a calm and positive state of mind at the moment of death as this will influence my rebirth. If you are suffering then it is negatively influencing your state of mind so you could be choosing euthanasia for the wrong reasons.**

## **Buddhism view 2**

**However other Buddhists like me would allow voluntary euthanasia because:**

- **Personal Choice and responsibility – if a person has clear mind and is not affected by any outside pressure, they should be allowed to choose what to do with their own life.**
- **I think that compassion is very important and that it is sometimes compassionate to help someone die and to end their suffering.**
- **It is important to have a calm and positive state of mind at the moment of death as this will influence my rebirth. If a person is helped to die quickly and peacefully this could help their future rebirth of consciousness.**

## **Muslim View 1**

**All Muslims are against euthanasia because:**

**-The Qur'an says suicide is wrong**

***'Do not throw yourselves with your own hands into destruction.'* (Qur'an 2:195)**

**-Euthanasia is murder which is banned in the Quran**

**- Only Allah has the right to take away life and therefore euthanasia would be seen as disobeying Allah**

**- Muslims believe life is a test. Ending life early would be like cheating in a test**

**Muslim View 2**

**Some Muslims feel that switching off life support machines is not euthanasia as:**  
**-Some Muslim lawyers have agreed that machines can be switched off if doctors believe life has ended**  
**-If they are brain dead then Allah has already taken their life and therefore it can not be classed as euthanasia.**  
**- Muslims believe that God doesn't put extra burdens on people that they cannot handle.**

**Activity 6: (15 minutes) Copy the table below and complete using the information you have just read on the different religious views towards euthanasia**

Religion	Agree/ disagree	Why do they hold this belief?
Roman Catholic		
Church of England		

<b>The Modern Church people's Union</b>		
<b>Religion</b>	<b>Agree/ disagree</b>	<b>Why do they hold this belief?</b>
<b>Buddhist view 1</b>		
<b>Buddhist view 2</b>		
<b>Muslim view 1</b>		

<b>Muslim view 2</b>		
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Use the feedback sheet to check your responses

**Lesson 2: Title: An Introduction to Abortion – this lesson should take 20 minutes**

On lined paper, in your exercise book, or in a Word document, put the title and date.

Activity 1: (15 minutes)

Write down the following key terms associated with the abortion debate, leave a line or two underneath each key word – then use the definition box to define each key word accurately. You may need to check your answers on the internet as you go!

**Key Words**

Abortion

Adoption

Conception

Embryo

Fertilisation

Foetus

Fostering

Pro choice

Pro life

Quality of life

Quickening

Sanctity of life

Viability

Zygote

**DEFINITION BOX** – Match the definitions below to the correct key words above.

- In favour of a woman's right to choose to have an abortion. The rights of the mother outweigh anyone else's rights (including the foetus).
- How good or bad a person's life is. Factors for measurement include health, wealth etc.
- The legal transfer of parental responsibilities.
- A medieval term to describe the first moment a foetus is felt to move. Believed to be the moment the foetus gets its soul from God.
- An organism in the early stages of growth and differentiation, from fertilisation to the beginning of the third month of pregnancy (in humans).
- The moment of conception- when the sperm enters the egg.
- The belief that life is precious, a blessing or gift that must be treasured and protected.
- An unborn offspring, from the embryo stage (the end of the eighth week after conception, when the major structures have formed) until birth.
- The fertilized egg.
- A temporary transfer of parental responsibilities.
- The deliberate ending of life after the fertilisation of human ovum and before birth.
- Against abortion. In favour of the rights of the foetus to life.
- In the abortion debate viability refers to the capability of the fetus to have prolonged life outside the mother's womb, in British law viability is at 24 weeks of pregnancy.
- The moment of fertilization- when the sperm enters the egg.

Use the feedback sheet to check and adjust your answers.

**Activity 2 (5 minutes)**

Watch this video outlining the arguments for and against abortion.

Which arguments do you think is the strongest and why?

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/pro-life-vs-pro-choice>

**EXTENSION ACTIVITY** – Read the newspaper article below on the upper time limit for legal abortion.

Decide whether you believe that abortions should be allowed up until 24 weeks? Justify your view.

**Telegraph Newspaper**

**Unborn baby pictures fuel abortion debate**

The logo for the Telegraph newspaper, featuring the word "Telegraph" in a large, bold, blackletter-style font.

Extraordinary pictures of a 12-week-old unborn baby wriggling his legs in the "stepping" motion characteristic of newborns triggered a debate on the ethics of abortion which no one predicted would take centre stage at a general election. Prof Stuart Campbell, the ultrasound pioneer who captured the images, said yesterday he was "truly staggered" by their impact.

"I just wanted to educate couples about the development of a baby," he told The Daily Telegraph. The images were compiled for his book "Watch Me Grow!" for would-be parents. "It never entered my head that these pictures would have this effect, engendering a national debate on abortion, but seeing an 11-week-old foetus doing quite sophisticated things opened my own eyes to the fact that we did not know how rapidly the foetus developed," he said.

His pictures showed that at 12 weeks, unborn babies looked like they were "enjoying jumping off the womb like a trampoline". At 14 and 15 weeks they sucked their thumbs and at 18 weeks they opened their eyes. Experts had said babies did not open their eyes until 26 weeks. One image he took captured a 14-week-old standing up, stretching and then sitting down again inside his mother's womb.



**An unborn baby at twelve weeks**

Prof Campbell, former head of obstetrics at King's College Hospital who now works at a private practice, Create Health, in Harley Street, said the pictures had altered his views of abortion but it was important to separate those who had abortions because their baby was very severely deformed from those who chose a termination for so-called "social" reasons.

"My own viewpoint is that the foetus is its own advocate and we should reduce the time limit for 'social' abortions from the present 24 weeks to 18. Maybe 12 in the future," he said. Women wanting abortions before 12 weeks should have much easier access to them, without the need for two signatures from a doctor, he said.

"But we should have a different time limit where an abortion is considered because the baby has a severe abnormality, because sometimes that abnormality is not diagnosed until the baby is 20 weeks old. If you have a deadline very soon after 20 weeks you might be rushing doctors to reach a conclusion and more mistakes would be made.

"I would probably keep the limit in these cases at 24, maybe reduce it to 23."